Foreign consultancy firms

3308. SHRI JIBON ROY: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) the number of foreign consultancy firms operating in the country;

(b) the names of such companies alongwith the countries of origin;

(c) the amount of earning taken out of India by these companies;

(d) whether the operation of these companies has adversely affected Indian consultancy firms; and

(e) if so, the steps taken by Government in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) to (e) The information is being collected and will be laid on the table of the House.

Non-payment of LIC claims

†3309. SHRI RAMA SHANKER KAUSHIK: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) Whether the Honourable Minister has received my letter No. 545/99 dated 22.12.99 regarding non-payment of amount of claim of the insurance policy number 250587352 (Meerut Division) of a young deceased named Shashank Gupta to the widow of the deceased and his minor son;

(b) if so, ths action taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not taking any action?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI BALASAHEB VIKHE PATIL): (a) Yes Sir.

(b) LIC has reported that the claim amount has been settled in favour of the wife of the deceased life assured on 23.6.98. LIC has also decided to pay interest from the date on which the claimant submitted a joint application to the Corporation *i.e.* 28.2.96 to the date of settlement of the claim *viz.* 23.6.98.

(c) Does not arise.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.